5

RAL9-99-0073 PATENT

## PORTABLE NETWORKING INTERFACE METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DISTRIBUTED SWITCHING SYSTEM

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An apparatus and method to provide a portable networking interface for distributed switching systems. Two Application Program Interfaces (APIs) are defined for communication to a Forwarding Database Distribution Library (FDDL). The FDDL sits between network client applications and the switch device driver in order to provide a uniform interface to the switch device driver. Towers may be added to the FDDL to provide additional functionality specific to certain client applications.

::ODMA\PCDOCS\HOUSTON\_1\410639\2 1094:7036-P095US